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Summary record of the 2nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 15 September 2000, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Gittens-Joseph (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Election of officers

1. **The Chairperson** said that the Group of Western European and Other States had nominated Ms. Paterson (Australia) for the office of Vice-Chairperson.
2. *Ms. Paterson (Australia) was elected Vice-Chairperson by acclamation.*

Organization of work (A/55/250; A/C.3/55/1, A/C.3/55/L.1 and Add.1)

3. **The Chairperson** drew attention to chapter II of the report of the General Committee (A/55/250), which set forth guidelines with regard to the conduct of work, and specifically to section K of that chapter, which reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. The letter from the President of the General Assembly concerning allocation of items to the Committee had been issued as document A/C.3/55/1; in that connection, she recalled that the General Assembly had decided to take up item 37 at plenary meetings and had decided that the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 96; and that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/236, the Committee needed to include in its programme of work an item on the proposed medium-term plan.

4. In connection with the status of documentation, she drew attention to General Assembly resolution 50/206 C and subsequent resolutions concerning the control and limitation of documentation.

The meeting was suspended at 10.35 a.m. and resumed at 10.50 a.m.

5. **Ms. de Armas Garcia** (Cuba) said that her delegation deeply regretted the situation created by the late and incomplete issuance of documentation; in particular, the reports in documents A/55/213 and A/55/214 did not include the replies from Cuba, which had been submitted on time to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; those replies should be issued as addenda as soon as possible. She also expressed the hope that there would be some flexibility with regard to the time limit for statements by delegations.

6. **The Chairperson** said that she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft programme of work contained in document A/C.3/55/L.1.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chairperson** said that she took it that the Committee agreed to a time limit of seven minutes for statements by individual delegations and 15 minutes for statements by spokesmen of groups of delegations, on the understanding that the time limit would also apply to the Secretariat.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chairperson** said that she took it that the Committee wished to invite the Rapporteurs and Special Representatives to present their reports to the Committee during the current session.

11. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.